

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05

CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06 LAB-04

SIL-01 L-02 H-02 DODE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 INT-05

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R 100736Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5244

INFO USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMCONSUL BRISBANE

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMCONSUL PERTH

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

UNCLAS CANBERRA 1516

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, AS

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIANS IMPOSE TEMPORARY QUOTA
RESTRICTIONS ON ROLLED STEEL

REF: CANBERRA 8017

1. SUMMARY: IN JOINT PRESS RELEASE BY MINISTER FOR
MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY AND SPECIAL MINISTER FOR STATE
GOA ANNOUNCED IMPOSITION QR'S ON HOT AND COLD ROLLED
SHEETS AND PLATES OF IRON OR STEEL, NOT GALVANIZED,
EFFECTIVE 1 JANUARY 1975. QUOTA IS 25 PCT. OF IMPORTS
BY WIEGHT FOR CALENDAR YEARS 1972 AND 1973. U.S. INTEREST
SIGNIFICANT AS ABOUT 15 PCT. OF AUSTRALIAN IMPORTS COMING
FROM U.S. SOURCES, ACCORDING TO MOST RECENT DATA AVAILABLE.

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END SUMMARY.

2. FULL TEXT OF PRESS RELEASE (UNESSENTIAL WORDS OMITTED)
IS AS FOLLOWS:

QTE MINISTER FOR MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY, SENATOR JAMES MCCLELLAND, AND SPECIAL MINISTER FOR STATE, MR. LIONEL BOWEN, ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT GOVERNMENT HAD IMPOSED TEMPORARY IMPORT RESTRICTIONS ON HOT AND COLD ROLLED SHEETS AND PLATES OF IRON OR STEEL WHICH IS NOT GALVANISED WITH EFFECT FROM 1 JANUARY 1975. IMPORT RESTRICTIONS INTENDED TO LIMIT IMPORTS OVER NEXT TWELVE MONTHS TO LEVEL WHICH IS NOT MORE THAN ONE QUARTER OF IMPORTS ON A WEIGHT BASIS FOR THE TWO CALENDAR YEARS 1972 AND 1973 OF FOLLOWING GOODS:

QTE (I) HOT ROLLED SHEETS AND PLATES OF IRON OR STEEL NOT EXCEEDING 3.2MM IN THICKNESS AND

QTE (II) COLD ROLLED SHEETS AND PLATES OF IRON OR STEEL OF A KIND FALLING WITHIN TARIFF SUB-ITEM 73.13.1. IMPORTS OF GALVANISED SHEETS AND PLATES OF IRON OR STEEL NOT COVERED BY THE RESTRICTIONS.

QTE MINISTERS SAID THIS ACTION TAKEN FOLLOWING GOVERNMENT'S ACCEPTANCE OF REPORT BY TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE AUTHORITY OF 12 FEBRUARY 1975 ON SHEETS AND PLATES OF IRON OR STEEL. AUTHORITY FOUND URGENT ACTION NECESSARY TO PROTECT AUSTRALIAN INDUSTRY PRODUCING HOT ROLLED SHEETS AND PLATES OF IRON OR STEEL NOT EXCEEDING 3.2MM IN THICKNESS AND COLD ROLLED SHEETS AND PLATES OF IRON OR STEEL OF KIND FALLING WITHIN TARIFF SUB-ITEM 73.13.1.

QTE MR. BOWEN SAID REFERENCE HAS BEEN SENT TO INDUSTRIES ASSISTANCE COMMISSION REQUESTING IT REPORT ON NEED, IF ANY, FOR CONTINUANCE THESE IMPORT RESTRICTIONS. HE SAID DECISIONS ON LONG TERM ASSISTANCE TO BE PROVIDED TO PRODUCTS SUBJECT TO THESE IMPORT RESTRICTIONS WILL BE TAKEN IN CONTEXT OF CONSIDERATION BY GOVERNMENT OF INDUSTRIES ASSISTANCE COMMISSION'S REPORT ON IRON AND STEEL INDUSTRY.

QTE FURTHER DETAILS OF GOVERNMENT'S DECISION WILL BE ANNOUNCED BY DEPARTMENT OF MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY WHICH WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE IMPORT
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LICENSING CONTROLS, IN CONJUNCTION WITH DEPARTMENT OF CUSTOMS AND EXCISE.

QTE COPIES OF THE TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE AUTHORITY'S REPORT WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE WHEN PRINTED. END QTE.

3. WE UNDERSTAND QUOTA WILL BE ESTABLISHED FOR EACH IMPORTER EQUAL TO 25 PCT. OF TOTAL IMPORTS BY WEIGHT CLEARED BY THE IMPORTER FOR HOME CONSUMPTION DURING THE

TWO YEARS 1972 AND 1973. THIS WILL BE DESCRIBED IN ARTICLE XIX NOTIFICATION REPORT TO GATT HOWEVER AS 50 PCT. OF IMPORTS BY WEIGHT OF AVERAGE ANNUAL IMPORTS DURING THE TWO YEARS. IMPORT LICENSES WILL BE GRANTED EACH IMPORTER FOR SIX-MONTH PERIODS FOR NO MORE THAN HALF THE ESTABLISHED QUOTA.

4. ALTHOUGH BULK OF AUSTRALIAN IMPORTS OF THIS TYPE OF STEEL COME FROM JAPAN (64 PCT. IN FIRST FIVE MONTHS FY 75), SUBSTANTIAL SHARE (15 PCT.) HAS BEEN COMING FROM U.S. BEGINNING FY 74. OTHER MAIN SOURCE IS KOREA (21 PCT.).

5. EMBASSY COMMENT: RESTRICTION SPECIFIED IN ANNOUNCEMENT WILL RESULT IN TOTAL QUOTA OF SLIGHTLY LESS THAN 70,000 TONS OF THESE TYPES OF STEEL OR ROUGHLY 27 PCT. OF 1974 IMPORTS, ACCORDING TO TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE AUTHORITY REPORT. REPORT ALSO EXPLICITLY STATES THAT INTENT OF MEASURE IS TO PROTECT APPROXIMATELY 1,000 JOBS AT JOHN LYSAGHT (AUSTRALIA) LTD., THE SOLE AUSTRALIAN MANUFACTURER OF THE GOODS UNDER REFERENCE. END COMMENT.
HARROP

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